

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - USA PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled BRACING ARRANGEMENT COMPRISING OVERSTRAIN PROTECTION the specification of which:

- was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/EP2004/002854 filed on March 18, 2004 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any) and/or under PCT Article 34 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent, design or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent, design or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed for the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 U.S.C. § 119
Germany	103 12 011.4	March 18, 2003	■ YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**Prior U.S.A. Application(s)**

Application No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Status: \_\_\_\_\_

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint the registrants of Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP, 2040 Main Street, Fourteenth Floor, Irvine, California 92614, Telephone (949) 760-0404, Customer No. 20,995.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Norbert Schneider

Inventor's signature N. Schneider Day 13 Month 03 Year 2006

Residence (city and country): Uznach, Switzerland

Citizenship: ~~Switzerland~~ Germany

Post Office Address: Eisenbahn  
strasse 16, CH-8730 Uznach, Switzerland

Full name of second inventor: Gerhard Ploke

Inventor's signature G. Ploke Day 13 Month 03 Year 2006

Residence (city and country): Rüterswil, Switzerland

Citizenship: Switzerland

Post Office Address: Obermatten 2, CH-8735 Rüterswil, Switzerland

Send Correspondence To:  
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP  
Customer No. 20,995

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Schneider et al.	)
			)
App. No.	:	10/549,651	)
			)
Filed	:	September 16, 2005	)
			)
For	:	BRACING ARRANGEMENT	)
		COMPRISING OVERSTRAIN	)
		PROTECTION	)
			)
Examiner	:	Unassigned	)
			)

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ESTABLISHMENT OF RIGHT OF ASSIGNEE TO TAKE ACTION  
AND  
REVOCATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee below (the "Assignee"). A true copy of the original Assignment of the above-captioned application from the inventor(s) to the Assignee is attached hereto. This Assignment represents the entire chain of title of this invention from the Inventor(s) to the Assignee.

I declare that all statements made herein are true, and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, or any patent issuing thereon.

App. No. : 10/549,651  
Filed : September 16, 2005

The undersigned hereby revokes any previous powers of attorney in the subject application, and hereby appoints the registrants of Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP, **Customer No. 20,995**, as its attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith. This appointment is to be to the exclusion of the inventor(s) and his attorney(s) in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 3.71.

Please use **Customer No. 20,995** for all communications.

P & S Vorspannsysteme AG

Dated: March 13, 2006

By: *G. Ploke* *H. Ploke*  
Name **G. Ploke** **H. Ploke**

Title: **Chairman** **Accountant**

Address: Rietwiesstrasse 2,  
CH-8735 St. Gallenkappel  
Switzerland

2419824  
030606

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, WE (1) Norbert Schneider, a Swiss citizen, residing at Uznach, Switzerland and Gerhard Ploke, a Swiss citizen, residing at Rüeterswil, Switzerland hereinafter referred to as Assignor (collectively if more than one inventor is listed above), have invented certain new and useful improvements in BRACING ARRANGEMENT COMPRISING OVERSTRAIN PROTECTION, the specification of which:

- was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/EP2004/002854 filed on March 18, 2004 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any) and/or under PCT Article 34 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

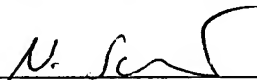
AND WHEREAS, P & S Vorspannsysteme AG, with its principal place of business at Rietwiesstrasse 2, CH-8735 St. Gallenkappel, Switzerland (hereinafter referred to as Assignee) desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said improvements with respect to the United States of America, its territories and possessions.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Assignor hereby acknowledges that it has sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents does hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, unto Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in the United States of America, and its territories and possessions in, to and under said improvements, and any Patent Applications in the United States of America and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Patents of the United States of America which may be granted thereon and all reissues and extensions thereof, and all rights of priority under International Conventions; and Assignor hereby authorizes and requests the Commissioner of Patents of the United States of America to issue all Patents for said improvements to Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this instrument.

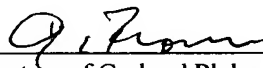
AND ASSIGNOR HEREBY covenants and agrees that it will communicate to Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, any facts known to it respecting said improvements, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper patent protection for said improvements in the United States of America.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor intending to be legally bound has hereunto affixed its signature.


This 13th day of March, 2006

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Norbert Schneider

This 13th day of March, 2006

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Gerhard Ploke

Witnessed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Robert Ploke**  
2419783  
030606

X

**COPY  
DO NOT RECORD**